

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 09084 132218Z

11

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 HEW-08 IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INSE-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 VO-03 DRC-01

/059 W

----- 009570

R 131831Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5878

UNCLAS CARACAS 9084

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINS, CPAB

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - ENGLISH  
LITERACY REQUIREMENT FOR U.S. CITIZENSHIP

REF: STATE 191781

1. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 1 OF VENEZUELAN NATURALIZATION LAW, RESIDENTS WHO DESIRE TO BECOME NATURALIZED MUST PRESENT, INTER ALIA, EVIDENCE THEY HAVE PASSED SPANISH LANGUAGE EXAMINATION. VENEZUELAN CONSTITUTION DOES NOT SET LITERACY IN SPANISH AS CONDITION FOR CITIZENSHIP BUT ARTICLE 36 STATES, "FOREIGNERS WHO BY BIRTH HAVE THE NATIONALITY OF SPAIN OR OF A LATIN AMERICAN STATE SHALL BE ENTITLED IN SPECIAL FACILITIES IN OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION." ARTICLE 6 SAYS SPANISH IS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. NATURALIZATION LAW, HOWEVER, EXEMPTS THOSE OVER 50 YEARS OF AGE, THOSE HAVING TEN YEARS UNINTERRUPTED RESIDENCE, THOSE WHO RECEIVED THEIR SCHOOLING HERE OR THOSE WHO, AFTER TWO YEARS IN VENEZUELA, PASS SPECIAL COURSE IN VENEZUELAN HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, LITERATURE AND FOLKLORE. IN ADDITION, GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT LACK OF SPANISH IS NOT INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIER TO CITIZENSHIP. GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO BECOME CITIZENS AND EVEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE RADIO HAS BEEN RUNNING COMMERCIALS TO THIS EFFECT. THUS WHILE FORMAL SPANISH REQUIREMENT REMAINS ON BOOKS, IT WOULD  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 09084 132218Z

APPEAR THAT FLUENCY IS NOT NECESSARY AND THAT GOVERNMENT OFTEN

IS WILLING TO GIVE APPLICANT BENEFIT OF DOUBT WHEN JUDGING HIS  
ABILITY TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE.  
FISHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, CITIZENSHIP ACQUISITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974CARACA09084  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740257-0548  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740949/aaaabpes.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION L  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 191781  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - ENGLISH LITERACY REQUIREMENT FOR U.S. CITIZENSHIP  
**TAGS:** PINS, CPAS, CI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005